

Dear Chairman Powell,

I would like to express my concern about the alarming trend toward media consolidation that is limiting the choices we ordinary citizens have when we tune in radio or TV, or pick up the newspaper in the morning. I don't find it comforting that the control of our media is so narrow. It's obvious from the news that does get through that there is no longer any independence or diversity of opinion.

The effect that it has had on me personally? I no longer believe any news stories that come through the "regular" channels. Especially during the recent war, the major media outlets have been in lockstep on all their stories. So what deregulation is doing is creating a nation of unthinking, tuned-out consumers, most of whom don't know that there is a big wide world of thought out there and we Americans are getting just the tiniest part of the picture in our daily media diet. Another result is that many people now get their "news" from the Internet, which is full of rumors and scandal-mongering and shows no capability of developing a journalistic ethic anytime in the near future. So now we have a nation of misinformed people as well as unthinking ones. What kind of democracy will that bring in the future?

Please support those members of Congress like Peter DeFazio (D-OR) who have chosen to go against this trend, and add your voice and the weight of your office to those who are concerned about what will happen as we have fewer and fewer media sources to give us the accurate information the "Information Age" requires. More is not necessarily better, but less is almost always worse when it comes to diversity of opinion.

Sincerely,

John Tietjen
Corvallis Oregon